

individual. There are still some persons, whose minds are illuminated with the rays of science, and who study, and, I doubt not practice too, the precepts of virtue and religion. Several of this kind, says our author, have I seen in my travels, particularly an aged hermit, whom I fortunately met with, not many years since, in the celebrated mountain of Lebanon. To attempt a description of this famous mountain, would extend this tale to too great a length, suffice it, therefore to say, that the cedars for building the temple of Solomon, the most splend structure the world ever saw, were brought from thence; but time has strangely changed the face of this country. The extensive forest of Lebanon, which contained such multitudes of spreading cedars are reduced to one single grove of about one mile in circumference, containing about eighteen large cedars, a considerable number of small ones, and a few pines.

While we were viewing the cedars, continues our author, an aged hermit approached us; and, after making some remarks on these famous trees, conducted us to the convent of Cannobine, built on the declivity of Lebanon, in the most retired and romantic situation that can possibly be conceived. It stands on the north side of a remarkable chasm, or hollow part of the mountain, at the bottom whereof

whereof runs a large curreant of water tumbles down the rocks in numerous cataracts. The murmur of these falling streams, the hollow found of the wind among the trees, increase the solemnity of the scene, and tend greatly to compose the mind, and inspire the soul with reflections worthy its nature: both sides of this chasm are remarkably steep, and covered with the most beautiful verdure, many of which of the aromatic kind, render the air fully fragrant.

The church of this convent is a grotto, and in one of the windows bells, which call the monks to the prayers; a favour allowed them no where in the Turkish Dominions. The church itself stands at the mouth of a large cavern, and, except two or three rooms in the bottom, is composed of subterraneous apartments.

After viewing every part of this fecund retreat, the hermit conducted us to a place which stood to the margin of the same chasm, about a quarter of a mile from the entrance of this homely convent. There was a large spreading tree, and, on the left side a small stream, which had its rise at a distance above, in the side of the mountain, and here tumbled into the torrent at the bottom of the chasm. It is still the same among the inhabitants of the East, to